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## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to more clearly recite that which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 17 have been amended to correspond to amended Claims 1 and 12.

New Claims 18, 19 and 20 have been added.

Claims 1-5 and 12-20 remain pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and examination of Claims 1-5 and 12-20 in view of the amendments above and the arguments below.

By way of this response, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the examiner telephone Leo J. Peters at (408)433-4578 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claims 1-5 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murdoch, U.S. Patent No. 4,002,282 (Murdoch) in view of Shingai, U.S. Patent No. 5,950,100 (Shingai). Amended Claims 1-5 and 12 overcome the rejection as follows.

Amended Claims 1 and 12 recite partially surrounding a bonding wire by a nozzle orifice having an arcuate shape in a dimension perpendicular to the bonding wire as shown in FIG. 2 and described in the specification on page 4, lines 20-31. The claimed method of partially surrounding a bonding wire by a nozzle orifice having an arcuate shape advantageously avoids the need for multiple capillary tubes to meet a minimum

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requirement for effective coating of the bonding wire as disclosed by Murdoch in column 4, lines 30-33.

Murdoch teaches two round nozzle orifices near reference numerals (35) and (36) on opposite sides of the bonding wire (12) as shown in the drawing. Because the nozzle orifices disclosed in Murdoch are round, they are not arcuate in the dimension perpendicular to the bonding wire (12) as recited in Claims 1 and 12, nor do the nozzle orifices disclosed in Murdoch have a dimension parallel to the bonding wire that is relatively narrow with respect to a dimension of the nozzle orifice perpendicular to the bonding wire as recited in Claim 18.

Furthermore, Murdoch teaches away from the claimed method of partially surrounding a bonding wire by a nozzle orifice having an arcuate shape by the use of multiple capillary tubes (31B, 32B) to surround the bonding wire (12) in column 3, lines 11-19 and column 4, lines 30-33.

Shingai does not teach or suggest any specific shape for the nozzle orifice of the sprayer (7) in FIGS. 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B and 5C, nor does Shingai teach or suggest moving the sprayer (7) from a non-coating position to a coating position as recited in Claims 1 and 12.

Because neither Murdoch nor Shingai teach or suggest the claimed step of partially surrounding the bonding wire by an arcuately shaped nozzle orifice, Claims 1 and 12 are non-obvious over Murdoch in view of Shingai under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Because Claims 2-5 and 13-20 include all the limitations of Claims 1 and 12 respectively, Claims 2-5 and 13-20 are likewise non-obvious over Murdoch in view of Shingai under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a),

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No additional fee is believed due for this amendment.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Claims 1-5 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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